

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

7 September 1984

GROUPS AIDING REBELS INCLUDE ARKANSANS  
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Two American groups that train and supply Central American counterrevolutionaries include Arkansans in their membership rolls, organizers said.

Don Gilmore of Memphis, Tenn., organizer of Civilian Refugee Military Assistance, said "five or 10" of the 350 members of his group are from eastern Arkansas. Gilmore said he hopes to organize chapters of CRMA in Arkansas.

Tom Posey of Decatur, Ala., director of Civilian Military Assistance, said the 1,000 members of his group live in Arkansas and five other Southern states. He would not say how many CMA members live in Arkansas.

Both Posey and Gilmore said their groups were comprised of civilians, although both men said they are members of the National Guard.

Two group members, James Powell III of Memphis, Tenn., and Dana Parker of Huntsville, Ala., were killed Saturday in a helicopter crash in Nicaragua. The helicopter was shot down in what Nicaraguan officials said was a raid on a military school.

Posey told the Arkansas Gazette in Little Rock that Gilmore's group, which Posey helped organize, provides relief and military assistance to Nicaraguan refugees along the border with Honduras, while Posey's group provides only military aid.

Gilmore told the Gazette that the two groups have sent more than \$70,000 in equipment, but no weapons, to the rebel Nicaraguan Democratic Force in the past year.

"We spent the money on everything from combat boots to web gear to field packs, knives, medical supplies, food and clothing," he said. Some of the money was used for "helicopter upkeep," he said.

Powell and Parker were on a "rescue mission" when they were shot down, Gilmore said.

The CRMA has "good contacts" throughout Honduras and with the U.S. State Department, Gilmore said, but only "indirect" contact with the Central Intelligence Agency.